THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Friday, the 18th November 1949.

The House met in the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at eleven of the clock, the Deputy President (THE HON. SRI K. VENKATASWAMI NAYUDU) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Treatment of Sri M. Muthuswami, a member of the Coimbatore Municipal Council, who died in the hospital.

* 32 Q.—JANAB ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have received a copy of the resolution passed by the Coimbatore Municipal Council demanding enquiry regarding the indifference and apathy shown by the doctors on duty in the hospital in connexion with the treatment of Sri M. Muthuswami, a member of the said Council, who died in the hospital after being suddenly taken ill at the meeting of the Council on 16th August 1949; and

(b) if so, what action the Government have taken on that resolution?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" (a) Yes.

"(b) A preliminary enquiry was made by the District Medical Officer and although it indicated that the allegations were not correct, the Surgeon-General has been asked to have a regular enquiry held and to report to Government."

JANAB ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI :—" May I know, Sir, when this enquiry is to be held?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" It is to be held by the Surgeon-General."

Issue of a Press Note drawing attention to rule 26 of the Government Servants' Conduct Rules.

* 31 Q.—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO: Will the Hon. the Premier be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government have issued a Press Note drawing attention to rule 26 of the Government Servants' Conduct Rules;

(b) if so, the reasons which necessitated the issue of the Press Note;

(c) whether the rule referred to in clause (a) is intended only in regard to " Promotions of Government servants " as the heading indicates or whether it is applicable to other cases as well;

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(*d*) what remedies exist now to Government servants to bring to the notice of Government in regard to promotions, punishments, etc.;

(*e*) whether it is open to Government servants to send up memorials to His Excellency the Governor against the orders of Government; and

(*f*) whether the Retrenchment and Reorganization Committee made any recommendation in this regard and if so, what the decision of the Government is on the recommendation?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN (on behalf of Hon. the Premier) :—" (*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

" (*b*) It was observed that in spite of the instructions previously issued in the matter, some Government servants were seeking the aid of influential members of the public and Members of the Legislature for the furtherance of their interests. The Press Note was issued with a view to stopping this growing evil.

" (*c*) The rule applies to all cases in which a Government servant brings or attempts to bring any political or other outside influence to bear upon any superior authority for the furtherance of his interests.

" (*d*) They can make their representation to Government through the proper channel.

" (*e*) Yes.

" (*f*) The Retrenchment and Reorganization Committee recommended that in the light of the constitutional changes, the provisions relating to memorials regarding disciplinary matters either to Government or the Governor should be abolished. The Government did not, however, accept the recommendation."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" The Retrenchment and Reorganization Committee made the recommendation as under the new Constitution, His Excellency the Governor will not have anything to do with memorials and so, should it not be considered by the Cabinet? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" The Retrenchment and Reorganization Committee's recommendation has not been accepted."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know, Sir, who the authority is who will deal with memorials? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" The Premier is the authority who will deal with it."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" In respect of orders passed by the Hon. Premier, which is the authority which will deal with memorials, Sir? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" It is the Premier who will have to re-consider the whole thing."

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SRI P. R. K. SARMA :—" May I know, Sir, whether these amendments to Government Servants' Conduct Rules apply to industrial workers of the Government who are members of registered and recognized trade unions? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" They are not members of the Service in the strict sense of the term; they belong to the labour organization."

SRI P. R. K. SARMA :—" May I know, Sir, whether the amendments to the Government Servants' Conduct Rules to the effect that any attempt on the part of the Government employees to refuse to receive wages is an offence, has been made applicable recently to industrial workers, for example, the workers of the Public Works Workshops? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" No such representation has been received by the Government."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" In fairness to the Hon. the Premier and the parties concerned, is it not proper, Sir, that the recommendations of the Retrenchment and Reorganization Committee which suggested that in such cases, the Cabinet as a whole should consider the appeals, especially in the interests of the Government servants involved, should be re-considered by the Government? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" The recommendations of the Committee are certainly beyond their purview. In these matters, it is the Premier who will have to deal with it and it need not necessarily go before the Cabinet."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Under the new Constitution, will the memorials go to the Governor or as under the present set-up, is it the Hon. Premier that is the final authority? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" A separate question may be put; but I may tell the House that, to the extent that I know, this question has not yet come before the Government."

The Gandikottah Project.

* 33 *Q.*—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the investigation of Gandikottah Project has been completed;

(*b*) whether the question of taking up this project without reference to the proposed Krishna-Pennar Project has been considered by Government;

(*c*) what the probable estimated cost, the ayacuts served, etc., of the Gandikottah and the Krishna-Pennar projects are; and

(*d*) whether the question of remodelling the Gandikottah Project to be linked up with and to form part of the Krishna-Pennar Project has been further examined and if so, what the tentative, if not final, results are?